

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 184483 TOSEC 080139
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00
CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02 /067 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON:D/HA:OJONES

APPROVED BY ARA:WPSTEDMAN

PM:RTITUS

P:DTICE

ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

ARA:SASHELTON

S/S-O:AWOTTO

-----124843 052210Z /75-70

P 052118Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184483 TOSEC 080139

FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT, US

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION SALE TO GUATEMALA

LA PAZ AND BUENOS AIRES FOR DERIAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CABLE FROM EMBASSY GUATEMALA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 184483 TOSEC 080139

REGARDING THE PENDING GUATEMALAN REQUEST TO PURCHASE 5
MILLION ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION:

BEGIN TEXT. FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

THERE WAS A GENERAL CONSENSUS IN JUNE THAT WE SHOULD HOLD

OFF ACTION ON GUATEMALA'S REQUEST FOR FIVE MILLION ROUNDS OF 5.56 AMMUNITION WHILE TENSIONS WERE HIGH OVER BELIZE. THIS TENSION HAS NOW SUBSIDED TO THE POINT WHERE I BELIEVE WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH THE SHIPMENT. THE BRITISH HAVE WITHDRAWN TWO OF THEIR SHIPS, AND I GATHER THEY EXPECT TO WITHDRAW MORE OF THEIR REINFORCEMENTS GRADUALLY OVER THE NEAR TERM.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD COOPERATED WITH US FULLY DURING THE PEAK OF THE RECENT CRISIS, REFRAINING AT OUR URGING FROM FURTHER MILITARY

ESCALATION. I BELIEVE IT WILL HELP US PRESERVE OUR INFLUENCE WITH HIM IF WE NOW SHOW OURSELVES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO HIS INTERESTS AS WELL.

WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PAST THREE WEEKS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY REAL PROSPECT OF EARLY GUATEMALAN ACTION AGAINST BELIZE. IN ANY CASE, THE DELIVERY OF THIS AMMUNITION WOULD NOT MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GUATEMALAN DECISION TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE.

FOR ALL THESE REASONS AND HAVING IN MIND THE KEEN PERSONAL INTEREST WHICH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS TAKEN IN THE DELIVERY OF THIS AMMUNITION, I STRONGLY URGE THAT YOU AUTHORIZE ME TO INFORM HIM PROMPTLY THAT WE ARE PRO-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 184483 TOSEC 080139

CEEDING WITH THE SALE. BOSTER END TEXT

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A DECISION ON THIS CASE EARLIER THAN YOUR RETURN TO WASHINGTON. PM, ARA AND D/HA WASHINGTON AGREE THAT THE AMBASSADOR, ON INFORMING LAUGERUD OF ANY APPROVAL, SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) WE APPRECIATE HIS POSITIVE EFFORTS TO DEFUSE TENSION OVER BELIZE AND HOPE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE THEM.

(B) AS HE IS AWARE, HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS ARE ONE OF THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

(C) WE RECOGNIZE THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS IMPROVED THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUATEMALA, BUT WE ALSO ARE CONCERNED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION CONTINUES TO ATTRACT CRITICISM.

(D) WE WILL SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE GUATEMALA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

(E) WE VALUE OUR DIALOGUE ON THIS ISSUE AND HOPE IT WILL
CONTINUE.

3. FOR DERIAN: SUGGEST THAT ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE
BE CABLED DIRECTLY TO HABIB. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMMUNITION, SALES, TOSEC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE184483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCJOHNSON:D/HA:OJONES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770281-1039
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770891/aaaacyul.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d58e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1692836
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMMUNITION SALE TO GUATEMALA LA PAZ AND BUENOS AIRES FOR DERIAN
TAGS: MASS, GT, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d58e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009